

Appl. No. : 78,941  
Filed : May 14, 1998

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connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected, [The medical valve in accordance with Claim 8, wherein] said opening [is] being at a first end of said body, said body having a closed second end and a branch, said branch defining a branch passage leading from said cavity.

9/28/98 (Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a body having a cavity in communication with a second medical implement and an opening adapted to receive a first medical implement, a rigid sealing element positioned within said body and movable between a first position in which said seal prevents fluid flow through said body and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said body, said cavity including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected, [The medical valve in accordance with Claim 21, wherein] a piston member movably positioned within said body, and means for biasing said piston member in the direction of said sealing element, said means for biasing [comprises] comprising a member cooperating with said body to define an air-filled chamber.

10/24/98 (Amended) A medical valve for controlling the flow of fluid between a first medical implement and a second medical implement, said valve comprising a body having a cavity in communication with a second medical implement and an opening adapted to receive a first medical implement, a rigid sealing element positioned within said body and movable between a first position in which said seal prevents fluid flow through said body and a second position in which fluid flow is permitted through said body, said cavity including a fluid space which automatically and reversibly increases in size when said first medical implement is connected to said valve and which contracts in size when said first medical implement is disconnected, [The medical valve in accordance with Claim 21, wherein] a piston member movably positioned within said body, and means for biasing said piston member in the direction of said sealing element, said means for biasing [comprises] comprising an air-filled member.

#### REMARKS

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position regarding Claims 8, 10, 19-22 and 39. However, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant cancels

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these claims without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

Claims 11-18, 23 and 24 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. In addition, the Examiner previously indicated that Claims 40 and 41 are allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that this application as amended is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested.

#### CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application as amended is now in condition for allowance. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of pending claims 11-18, 23, 24, 40 and 41, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 30, 2000

By: 

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